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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

STATE, LOCAL SAFETY OFFICIALS URGE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO BE SAFE OVER MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

HAMPTON, New Hampshire – A group of local and state safety officials are urging New Hampshire residents, businesses owners and visitors to be safe by following the law and preparing for potential emergencies at the onset of Memorial Day weekend.

Leaders from the Hampton Police Department, State Police, Office of Highway Safety, State Beach Patrol, Marine Patrol, Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Fish and Game Department and Department of Transportation gathered at Hampton Beach State Park on Friday, May 27, 2022, to share safety messages for all citizens. Some recommendations were specifically for beachgoers, drivers, boaters, swimmers and hikers.

Following two weekends of misconduct issues at Hampton Beach, Hampton Police and New Hampshire State Police also discussed additional resources that were being added over Memorial Day weekend to ensure the safety of the public.

“Anyone that is looking to cause disruptions or commit criminal acts will be arrested and prosecuted,” said Hampton Police Chief David Hobbs. “We hope that everyone has a safe Memorial Day weekend, and we hope we can all take a moment to remember and honor those who died while serving our great country.”

Hobbs also reminded beachgoers that alcohol is not permitted on Hampton Beach and fireworks are unlawful within the town of Hampton.

New Hampshire State Police Capt. John Hennessey said everyone is welcome in the Granite State, but urged anyone planning to participate in unlawful conduct to stay home.

“If you are planning to come to any of the communities along our great beaches or lakes, all we ask is that you comply with the law,” Capt. Hennessey said. “If you choose to come out and put the safety of others at risk, know that the New Hampshire State Police stands ready to enforce state laws.”

Anyone who experiences an emergency is urged to contact 9-1-1 immediately.

As many head back to the sand in the sun, New Hampshire State Beach Patrol Chief Patrick Murphy reminded beachgoers that the digging of holes is not permitted on state beaches, and that current ocean water temperatures may be dangerous.

“The water will still be cold, so we want to remind people that hypothermia and cold-related medical issues are possible,” said Hampton Beach Chief Lifeguard Patrick Murphy. “Lifeguards will be on-duty. They’re here to keep the patrons that attend our state beaches safe. So, please listen to the instructions of the lifeguards.”

Referring to his experience responding to emergency calls on local and state roadways, New Hampshire State Police Capt. Chris Vetter, currently assigned as the Commander of the Office of Highway Safety, also urged drivers not to drive distracted, to obey posted speed limits, to operate sober and to wear seatbelts, along with passengers.

“Many people simply believe that data and statistics are what happens to everyone else,” Vetter said. “I encourage you and motorists not to become one of those statistics.”

Addressing anyone planning to go out waterways, New Hampshire State Police – Marine Patrol Lt. Crystal McLain urged the designation of sober operators.

“Alcohol and drugs can be even more hazardous on water than on land,” McLain said. “The waves, vibrations, engine noise, sun, wind, spray, and other stressors can accelerate the effects of drugs and alcohol and impact a driver’s impairment.”

McLain also reminded boaters that Coast Guard-approved life jackets are required for children under 13 years of age at all times when underway on a vessel and suggested their use is “good practice” for everyone on board. She also urged operators to stay mindful of swimmers and to keep a safe distance from others.

In addition, New Hampshire Emergency Management Asst. Director Grant Nichols encouraged all Granite State residents to sign up for [NHAlerts](#), to monitor broadcast updates for weather conditions, as well as to make an emergency plan and build an emergency kit.

“It’s important at all times, and especially now, that you be prepared if your family experiences a disaster in the summer or at any other time,” Nichols said.

Addressing hikers and others planning to enjoy New Hampshire’s beautiful outdoors, Fish and Game Lt. Delayne Brown urged individuals to think ahead and have a plan for a variety of situations, including encountering wildlife.

“Your safety is our business,” Lt. Brown said. “Our officers are prepared. All we ask is that you are, too.”

Lastly, New Hampshire Department of Transportation Commissioner Victoria Sheehan urged all roadway users to give plenty of space to workers in construction areas.

According to Commissioner Sheehan, so far this calendar year, 37 people have died on New Hampshire roadways – including 5 motorcycle operators, 2 pedestrians and a cyclist.

“We all must do our part to keep every roadway user safe,” Commissioner Sheehan said.

You can watch the [entire press conference](#) on the Department of Safety’s Facebook page.

###DOS###

About the Department:

The New Hampshire Department of Safety is one of the largest departments of state government, with more than 2,200 full-time, part-time, non-classified, and seasonal employees functioning in both uniformed and civilian capacities throughout the State. The Department affects the lives of all New Hampshire residents and visitors by enforcing criminal, motor vehicle and boating laws, and providing for fire safety, fire and emergency medical training, emergency communications and disaster planning. Established by the New Hampshire General Court in 1961, the Department consists of the divisions of Administration, Emergency Services and Communications, Fire Safety (Office of the State Fire Marshal), Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Motor Vehicles and State Police. Follow us on [Twitter](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).

“To continually enhance the safety, security and quality of life in New Hampshire through professional, collaborative and innovative service to all.”